

**Smart? Yes. Brooding? Sometimes. Sexy?** Of course. But no one could ever accuse Ethan Hawke—Hollywood’s leading generation-X smart-throb—of being lazy or complacent. Hawke, 47, has made more than 75 movies in almost 35 years as an actor—and when he’s not on-camera he’s tackling Broadway plays, directing a passion project or writing a screenplay or book. (His graphic novel about the Apache Wars was a 2016 *New York Times* bestseller.) “I’m a pretty restless person,” Hawke says with a laugh. But even he notes that he’s never had a

# Ethan Hawke How I’ve Changed

**Proud Dad**  
Hawke with his actress daughter Maya. “I’d be surprised if we don’t work together,” he says.



HE WAS AN '80S TEEN STAR AND '90S HEARTTHROB—BUT STRUGGLED TO FIND HAPPINESS. NOW THE FATHER OF 4 IS AT PEACE—AND ON A HOT STREAK **By GILLIAN TELLING**



**Star-Making Roles**  
 “*Dead Poets Society* really formed me,” says Hawke of his 1989 breakout movie with Robin Williams (left). Right: In 1994’s *Reality Bites* with Winona Ryder, Janeane Garofalo and Steve Zahn. “It’s damn close to being 25 years old!” he marvels.

summer as busy as this one. “This has hit some new level,” Hawke says of releasing three back-to-back movies over the past couple of months. There was the critically acclaimed drama *First Reformed*, in which he played a tortured small-town minister grappling with his faith. Then he dusted off his rom-com chops to play an aging rock star who romances Rose Byrne in *Juliet, Naked*, based on the Nick Hornby novel. His latest movie is the music biopic *Blaze*, about country singer-songwriter Blaze Foley, which he both wrote and directed. “I don’t know exactly how it happened,” he says. “To do three such different things and act in my first romantic comedy since *Reality Bites*. . . . It’s been a great summer.”

The father of four is feeling fulfilled in his personal life too—and that hasn’t always been easy. After dealing with depression after his 2005 divorce from first wife Uma Thurman, he recently celebrated a happy 10th anniversary with his second wife, producer Ryan Hawke, 39 (whom he met when she was briefly a babysitter to his older kids). The couple live in Brooklyn, and Hawke relishes being a dad to his daughter Maya, 20, and son Levon, 16, with Thurman, and daughters Clementine Jane, 10, and Indiana, 7, with Ryan. He’s thrilled with Maya’s burgeoning acting career. She earned rave reviews this spring for her first major TV role, Jo in PBS’s adaptation of *Little Women*. “That was an amazing

opportunity for her,” Hawke says. “She made so many friends and got to have the experience that I’ve been telling her about for years, about what it feels like to be part of something bigger than yourself. When it’s good, and you get to deliver a story to other people, you can make them really happy.” Now Maya is filming season 3 of *Stranger Things* in Atlanta, Levon and Clementine are busy with soccer, and Hawke jokes that the house feels empty. “My youngest wants to know why everybody’s not at home,” he says.

**‘One lifetime isn’t enough to get as deep as I want with the people I love’**  
 —ETHAN HAWKE



**Family Man**  
 “People who really care for you are extremely valuable and rare,” says Hawke (above, with Levon and Maya in 2013 and, right, with wife Ryan in January).

**Hawke himself became a movie star as a teenager.** Born in Austin, Texas, in 1970 to college sweethearts Leslie and James Hawke (who had him when they were just 18), he was mostly raised in New Jersey by his single mom after his parents divorced. He started acting in school productions and at age 14 was cast in the very first movie he auditioned for—1985’s *Explorers* with River Phoenix. At 18 he costarred in 1989’s *Dead Poets Society*—a role that still resonates deeply for him. “As I get older, I start to see the power *Dead Poets Society* had on my life,” he says. “It turned me into an actor. To work with Robin Williams and all those

FROM LEFT: TOUCHSTONE/KOBAL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; MOVIESTORREX/SHUTTERSTOCK; FROM TOP: JON KOPAL/GETTY IMAGES; JOE SCARNIC/GETTY IMAGES

**FEEL THIS FRESH FROM AM TO PM**

Always Daily Liners are so thin and absorbent they keep you feeling **CLEAN ALL DAY LONG.**

ALL DAY Freshn'Clean™

always THIN XTRA PROTECTION 5x DRIER

\*vs. Always Thin™ © Procter & Gamble 2018

*always*

The routine way to radiant lips.

ChapStick PUT YOUR LIPS FIRST®

ChapStick total hydration PINK NUDE Moisture + Tint

ChapStick total hydration conditioning lip scrub

EXFOLIATE. NOURISH. ENHANCE.

The ChapStick Total Hydration Collection

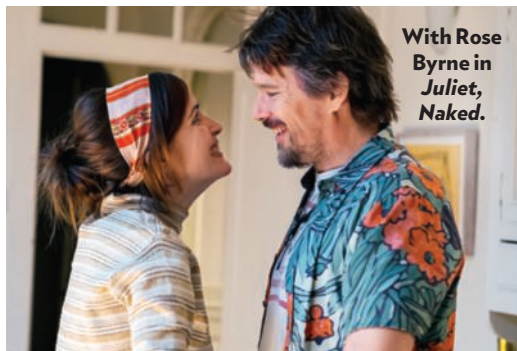
©2018 Pfizer Inc.



Hawke directed the music biopic *Blaze*, starring Ben Dickey.



In the dark drama *First Reformed*, Hawke plays a minister trying to keep the faith.



With Rose Byrne in *Juliet, Naked*.

### His Big Summer

Between May and August, Hawke released three movies. “They were such different projects,” he says. “It’s been a pleasure.”

young men who became some of my closest friends... it really, really changed everything.” It’s also a fan favorite. “People still have ‘Carpe Diem’ on T-shirts,” he says. “And sometimes I’ll be somewhere, and they’ll all stand on their desks. For anyone struggling with the feeling of conformity, that movie has real relevance. That’s a pretty heavy thing to have happen in your life when you’re 18.”



**Hawke went on to star in 1994’s gen X-beloved rom-com *Reality Bites* and nab a Supporting Actor Oscar nomination for the 2001 cop drama *Training Day* and a screenplay nomination for the 2004 romance *Before Sunset*, but work wasn’t always fun for him. He struggled personally and started disliking the Hollywood machine after his divorce from Thurman. “I’m not sure it’s fair to say I was anti-Hollywood,” he says. “But I was seeing a lot of the negative aspects of it, like the loss of privacy.” The one thing to lure him out of the darkness—besides his kids—was getting back to the theater. “I just decided I needed to get close with what I really love about what I do,” he says. “The theater has always been that for me. It’s much harder; it requires a higher level of discipline. Nobody gets you coffee, and you don’t get paid a lot of money. You’ve just got to get yourself to work every day. It helped me refocus on what’s good about being an actor. When you get in touch with that... you get to keep your sense of humor.”**



**He says he’s now made peace with his level of fame—except when people insist he’s Mark Wahlberg and they loved him in *Shooter*. “When you’re like, ‘No, that wasn’t me,’ and they’re like, ‘No, it was you, dude!’ it’s a little frustrating. But when people come up and say things like how they put**

**‘Curiosity makes life so much fun. Once you lose that, all the joy diminishes’**

—ON HIS WIDE-RANGING CAREER

*Sinister* [his 2012 horror film] on at their sleepover and how everyone went nuts for it, and you see joy in their eyes... I’d be lying if I said that’s not an amazing feeling.” The fans who approach him are as varied as his career. “If I see a woman my age coming up to me, chances are high that *Reality Bites* is going to come up,” he says. “Then there are Richard Linklater fans who think I should basically live with him and only make movies like *Before Sunset* and *Boyhood*. There are scary-movie fans who loved *The Purge*. In Texas you’d think the only movie I ever made was *Magnificent Seven*.”

Hawke acknowledges that his world can still be filled with competing pressures—and that adulthood can be hard no matter who you are. “I think one of the aspects that makes 2018 so difficult is we’re supposed to have everything,” he says. “We’re supposed to be great parents but also have vibrant, meaningful careers. We’re supposed to be good people and do volunteer work and also be richer than anyone could imagine. You better be in great shape, but you better not be vain. We’re creating these scenarios where you actually can’t feel good about yourself.” Still, he actively chooses to focus on what’s good in his life these days. “There’s so much suffering in the world that it seems incredibly asinine for me not to be pleased with how much I have,” he says. “I have four healthy kids and a wife who loves me that I love, and I get to do meaningful work. I’m really happy with that.” ●